

TABLE 2.—*Experience formulas for library size and costs*

Population size	Book stock, volumes per capita	No. of seats per 1,000 population	Circulation volumes per capita	Total square feet per capita	Desirable 1st floor square feet per capita	1961 fair estimated cost per capita ¹
Under 10,000.....	3½-5	10	10	0.7-0.8	0.5-0.7	\$15
10,000 to 35,000.....	2¾-3	5	9.5	.6-.65	.4-.45	12
35,000 to 100,000.....	2½-2¾	3	9	.5-.6	.25-.3	10
100,000 to 200,000.....	1¾-2	2	8	.4-.5	.15-.2	9
200,000 to 500,000.....	1½	1¼	7	.35-.4	.1-.125	7
500,000 and up.....	1-1¼	1	6.5	.3	.06-.08	6

¹ Without furnishings (add 15 percent) or air conditioning (add 10 percent). These figures were originally based on 1940 conditions and have now been increased to reflect larger present book stocks. Floorspace has been reduced because of economies.

Source: Wheeler, Joseph L., and Herbert Goldhor. *Practical Administration of Public Libraries*. New York, Harper and Row, 1962, p. 554.

The data above and other data presented in this chapter are derived primarily from unpublished Office of Education sources. Data on public libraries for 1962, the latest year for which detailed State figures are available, are from a forthcoming Office of Education publication, *Public Library Statistics, 1962*. The total public library universe was surveyed for this study. Data for 1965 represent extrapolations and projections from a more recent survey by the U.S. Office of Education, to be published under the title, *Survey of Public Library Building Facilities, 1963-64*. From the latter survey, data have been analyzed for a library sample estimated to represent 61 percent of the population served by public libraries.

2. EXISTING CAPITAL PLANT OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

In 1962, there were an estimated 7,257 community, county, regional, district or other local public library agencies in the United States. Of these, 6,264 responded to the survey which provides the most recent fully analyzed data available. Information on the number of library units is summarized in the first column of table 3, which also gives comparable information for selected earlier years. A State-by-State breakdown of the 1962 data, excluding bookmobiles, is shown in table 4.

TABLE 3.—*Number of public library units,¹ by type, 1945-62*

	1962	1956	1950	1945
Total.....	24,301	19,560	11,738	8,073
Central libraries.....	² 6,264	6,263	6,028	6,026
Branches and subbranches.....	5,725	5,285	5,107	2,047
Stations ³	11,031	7,132	(⁴)	(⁴)
Bookmobiles.....	1,281	880	603	(⁴)

¹ Data are derived from reports submitted to U.S. Office of Education for various surveys. Since only reported units are included, data are not for entire universe.

² Change in status of hundreds of libraries from separate agencies to members of systems between 1956 and 1962 accounts for the lack of change in number of central libraries between the 2 periods.

³ Stations are distribution points which may be located in a rural store, post office, or other community facility. They have no permanent book collections and no library staff.

⁴ Data not reported for these years.